

Rolling Out Maryland's Foam Ban



Maryland Chapter
Zero Waste Team
July 15, 2020



Why ban foam food containers?

- Used for minutes, they break into small pieces that last forever
- Harm to wildlife and the environment
- Growing harm to human health
- Not recyclable, not biodegradable
- Take up space in landfills
- There are plenty of alternatives are less harmful



What's in the state-wide foam ban? (1)

What's banned?

- Sale of expanded polystyrene food service products in the State
(as of July 1, 2020)
- Sale or provision of food or beverages in an expanded polystyrene food service product by a food service business or school (as of October 1, 2020)

What is a food service business?

- A business that sells or provides food or beverages for consumption on or off the premises
- It includes a business or institutional cafeteria, including those operated by or on behalf of state or local government

What's in the state-wide foam ban? (2)

What is an expanded polystyrene food service product?

- A product made of expanded polystyrene used for selling or providing food or beverages and
- Intended by the manufacturer to be used once, for eating or drinking, or recognized by the public as an item to be discarded after one use.
- Includes: food containers, plates, hot and cold beverage cups, trays, and cartons for eggs or other food.

What is exempted?

- Food or beverages that have been packaged in expanded polystyrene containers before receipt by a food service business
- A product made of expanded polystyrene used to package raw, uncooked, or butchered meat, fish, poultry, or seafood
- Non-foam polystyrene products

What's in the state-wide foam ban? (3)

Who publicizes and enforces the ban?

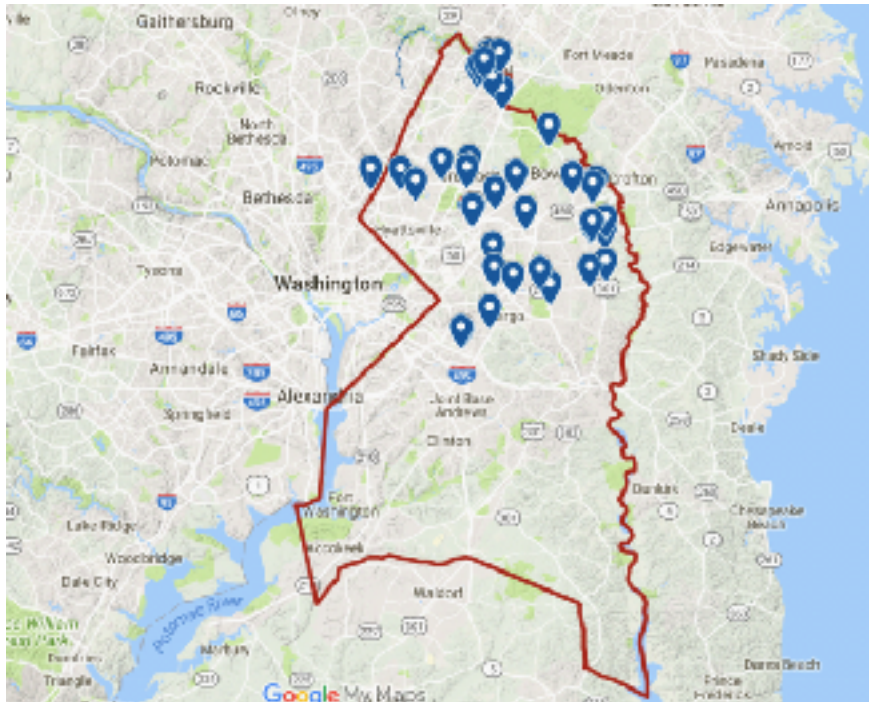
- MDE - public education and outreach campaign before and during implementation, including:
 - Contact with food service businesses, in consultation with relevant units of county government and trade organizations
 - Contact with schools, in consultation with MD Dept of Education
 - Distribution of information by internet and web-based resources
 - News releases and news events
- A unit of county government enforces, including a local health or environment department

What's the penalty?

- Written notice of violation and 3 months to correct it
- Up to \$250 per violation
- MDE to be notified of any violation

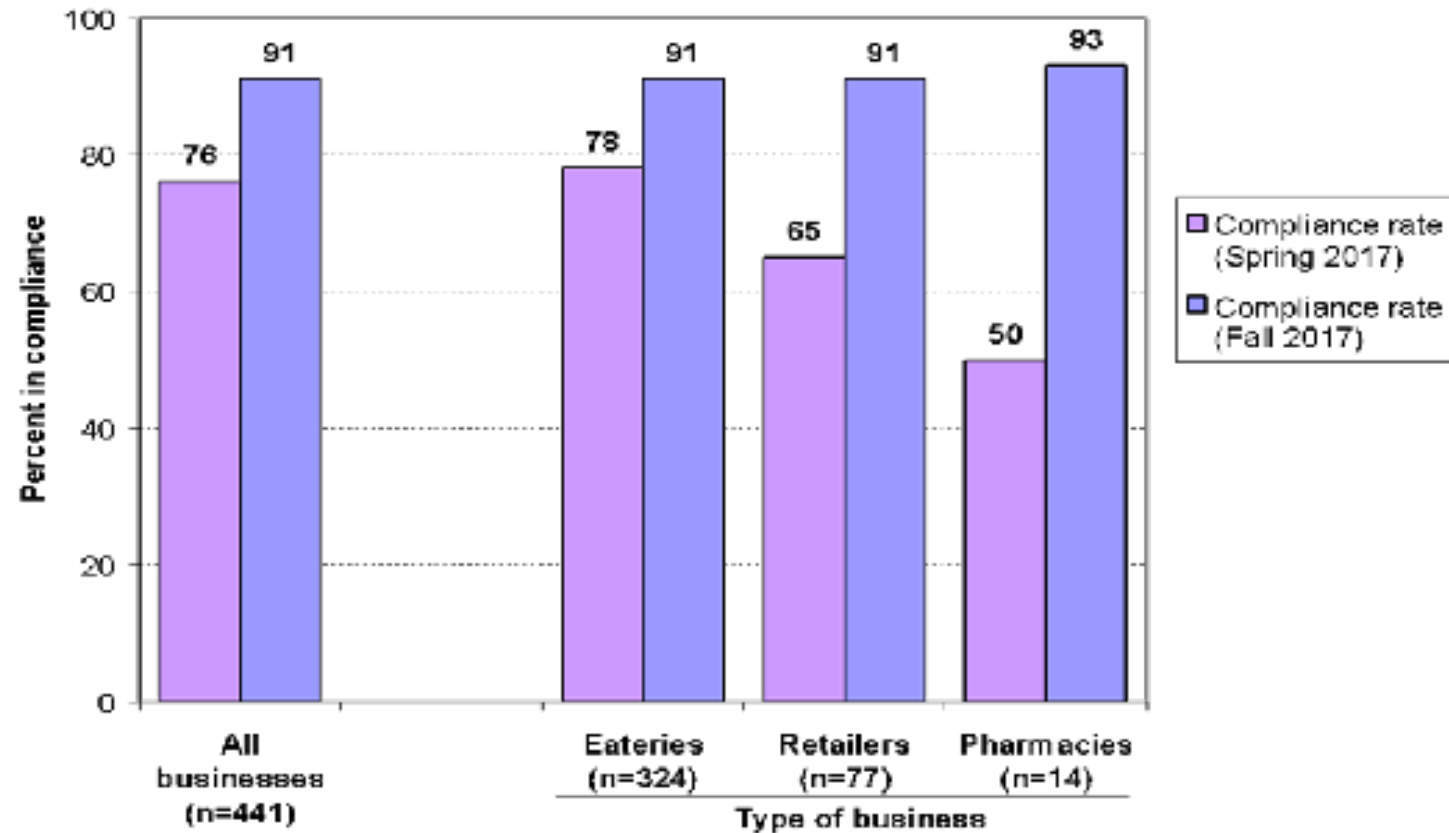
Compliance is high when businesses are aware!

Prince George's County

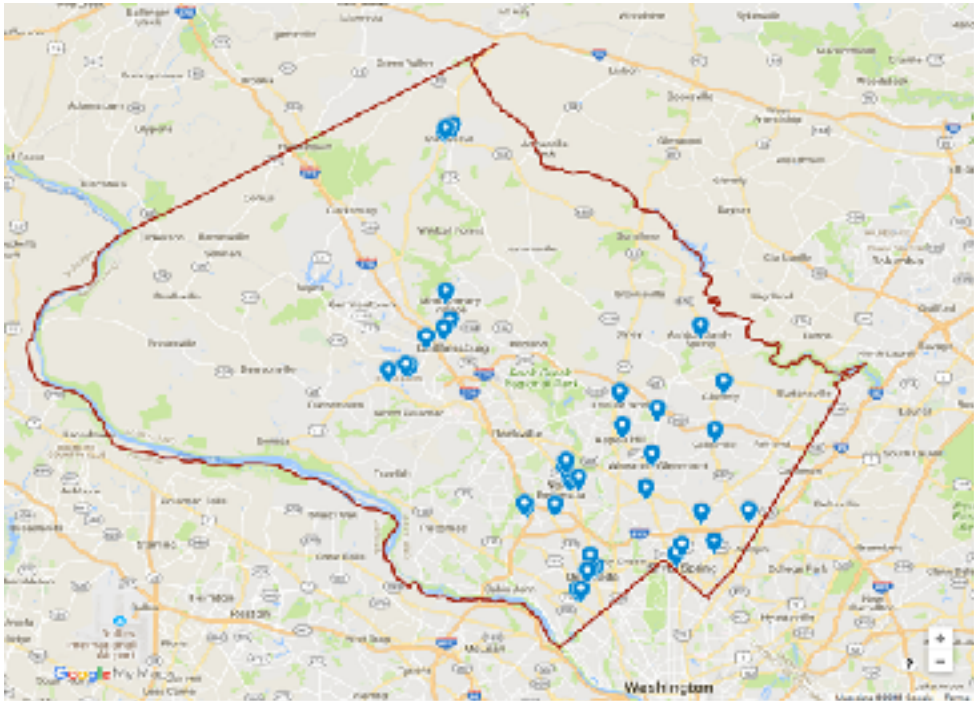


Source: PGSC Monitoring of 465 businesses in 45 shopping centers, 2017

Compliance rose to over 90% after face-to-face education of businesses by Sierra Club volunteers.

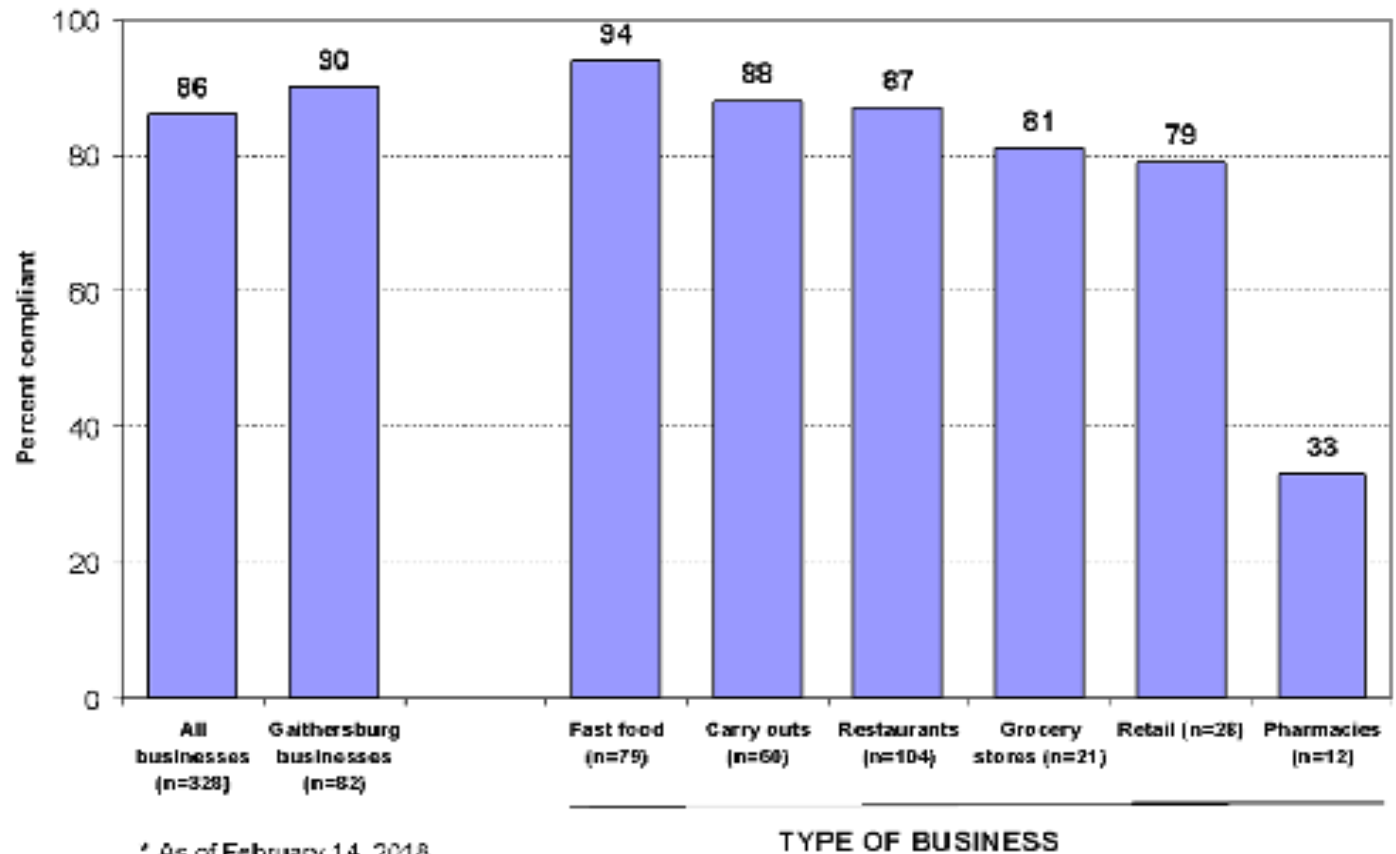


Montgomery County



Source: Montgomery County Sierra Club monitoring of 328 businesses in 38 shopping centers, Jan-Feb 2018

Compliance by Montgomery County businesses and those in Gaithersburg is about 90% at first visit, though pharmacies are less aware.



* As of February 14, 2018

Thank you!

For more information:

MDE Foam Ban Website

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Expanded-Polystyrene-Food-Service-Products-Ban.aspx>

John Sullivan's email:

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Sierra Club Zero Waste Website

(where materials will be posted next week)

www.sierraclub.org/maryland/zero-waste

Sierra Club Zero Waste Team:

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